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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0088
INFO RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS IMMEDIATE 1291
RUEHPC/AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE 3883
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1224
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHNA/DEA HQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W, AF/RSA, AND AF, LAGOS FOR DEA ATTACHE,
ACCRA FOR FORWOOD, PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/05/2018

TAGS: [MASS](#) [SNAR](#) [BN](#)

SUBJECT: GOB REQUESTS IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IN INTERDICTING
DRUG RUNNING VESSEL

REF: A. COTONOU 04
[1](#)B. COTONOU 01
[1](#)C. 07 COTONOU 893

Classified By: Amb. Gayleatha B. Brown for reasons 1.4 b and d.

1.(U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 4.

2.(C) President Yayi convoked the Ambassador for a personal meeting on the margins of a Council of Ministers meeting on January 5, 2008. Yayi told the Ambassador that the French government had informed him a vessel was currently in the waters off of the Beninese city of Grand Popo preparing to disembark narcotics. The same boat had aborted a previous attempt in the face of fishermen in the area, according to President Yayi. The President asked the Ambassador for U.S. assistance in tracking the vessel and if possible interdicting it before it disembarks the narcotics. During the conversation the President passed on a note that requested 24 hour satellite surveillance on all ship movement along Benin's coast and contiguous international waters.

3.(C) Benin lacks the capability to perform this interdiction itself (Ref B) and has previously requested this type of information (Ref C). Post also notes the GOB has reacted positively to the previous offer of information sharing detailed in Ref A.

4.(C) Action Request: Please forward an appropriate response, by Niac Immediate cable, to President Yayi's request for assistance.

BROWN